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Remarks

Claims 1 through 11 and 13 through 32 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 02/051519. Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 02/051519. The Examiner has, however, indicated that claim 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In responding to these rejections, the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 17 to include the limitations of claim 12 and intervening claim 11. Moreover, a slight change has been made to formers claim 1 and 17 by eliminating recitation of the word "welded", since the seat valve is normally made from plastic and the word "welded" could be construed as requiring a base part made of metal. Claims 1 and 17 now contain the structural limitations of allowable claim 12 and intervening claim 11 and are therefore distinguished from the prior art of record. The dependent claims also inherit this limitation. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests passage to issuance.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

Paul Vincent

Dr. Paul Vincent

Registration number 37,461

May 09, 2006

Date

Dreiss, Fuhlendorf, Steimle & Becker
Patentanwälte
Postfach 10 37 62
D-70032 Stuttgart
Federal Republic of Germany
Telephone: ++49/711-24 89 38-0
Fax: ++49/711-24 89 38-99